

Regional Human Services and Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Boards Joint MEETING SUMMARY

**Held on Thursday, July 22, 2009, 2 – 4pm at the Tukwila Community Center,
12424 42nd Avenue South, Tukwila, WA 98168 – Ph: 206 – 768 - 2822**

**Meeting Summary to be reviewed at October 22, 2009 Joint Board Meeting (last edited 10/19/09).*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by VCLOB Vice-Chair Bill Wood and RHSLOB Co-Chair Kathy Brasch at 2:06 p.m. A quorum was present. Vice-Chair Wood asked all staff, and guests in attendance to introduce themselves.

Roll Call

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Members Present: Joe Ingram (Co-Chair), Kathy Brasch (Co-Chair), Kathleen Hadaller, Edith Nelson, Loran Litchy

RHSLOB Excused/Absent: Kevin Bernadt, Dorry Elias-Garcia

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Members Present: Bill Wood (Vice-Chair), Kathy Lewis, Cynthia Lefever, Stan Gunno, Gary Kingsbury, Roger Welles, Robert Stephens Jr., Oren Hadaller,

VCLOB Members Excused/Absent: Douglas Hoople (Chair), Francisco Ivarra, Ron Forest

County Staff Present: Linda Peterson, Department of Community and Human Services, (DCHS), Debora Gay (DCHS), Sherry Hamilton (DCHS), Marcy Kubbs (DCHS), Sonia Singh (DCHS), Anne Shields, Public Health Seattle & King County

Guests: Councilmember Dow Constantine and staff, Nicole Chu, Amy Aubin, Mayra Sanchez, Jessica Witkowski, Paul Tagenfeldt, Casi Jackson

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft April 23, 2009 meeting summary was reviewed.

ACTION: The April 23, 2009 meeting summary was approved as written.

Welcome

Vice Chair Wood introduced Councilmember Dow Constantine from District 8.

Councilmember Constantine thanked the boards for inviting him to the meeting. He reported he was pleased with the support provided by the Levy to human services and veterans programs; and the preventive measures built into the strategies and programs. He believes these preventive measures have assisted in reducing costs over the long-term, a savings that otherwise would not have occurred and would cost taxpayers more in the short and long-term. He shared Levy success stories that he had come across as related to the Mobile Medical

Clinic, outreach to veterans across the county, and capital housing projects to create affordable housing units.

Chairs Report –Vice-Chair Wood (VCLOB) and Co-Chair Brasch (RHSLOB)

Vice-Chair Wood (VCLOB)

During the second quarter of 2009, the VCLOB and RHSLOB each held one board meeting along with four subcommittee meetings. Members from both boards also attended special levy related events such as groundbreakings, culminating in a total of 91 hours of volunteer service provided by board members last quarter.

Veterans Town Hall Meeting: On April 1st, Councilmember Bob Ferguson hosted a Veterans Town Hall meeting in Shoreline. Numerous speakers from Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, and King County Veterans Program along with a number of veterans who have benefited from services provided by these agencies spoke to educate the audience about issues facing veterans in our community. Numerous board members were in attendance.

Groundbreaking: In May, Veterans Board Member, Stan Gunno, represented King County at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Compass Veterans Center in Renton that received almost \$3 million in Veterans and Human Services Levy funding. Once opened, the housing will reserve 44 units for veterans. Stan spoke after Senator Patty Murray who was the key note speaker at the celebration. Construction is expected to be completed late in 2010.

New Board Member: Cynthia Lefever was appointed to the VCLOB in the second quarter. She will represent District 9 on the board.

Co-Chair Brasch (RHSLOB)

Speaker's Bureau Training: The Levy boards are fortunate to have the assistance of Bill Block, Director of the Committee to End Homelessness, as they prepare to provide public presentations on the Levy and its success. During the last quarter, two trainings on public speaking were provided by Bill, to board members who have agreed to be part of the Speaker's Bureau. Bill helped members learn how to engage the audience and deliver key points about the levy's achievements. Members are attending presentations being made by King County staff to share their experiences as board members with audiences.

2008 Levy Annual Report: was prepared by staff for submission to the King County Council. It includes a report from the chairs of both boards. Service data collected in 2008 indicated that a total of 20,000 individuals in our community were served by Levy-funded services last year.

Evaluation: Members of both boards reviewed an updated work plan for the evaluation of the Levy. In addition data on the status of veterans that became a part of the first evaluation report was reviewed.

Board Membership: Last quarter Loran Lichty applied to become a member of the Human Services board. This month he was appointed to represent District 9 on the board. The board currently has five vacancies, including the position representing District 8.

Panel Discussion: Levy Services in the Community – Facilitated by Co-Chair Brasch

Several members of the community receiving levy funds provided an update on their programs.

Activity 2.2 & 4.3: Paul Tegenfeldt of Navos

Navos serves 6,000 people annually and is one of the two largest mental health providers in King County. Navos has been in service for 40 plus years. In June, 2008 the organization changed its name from “Highline West Seattle Mental Health” to Navos. Navos provides a spectrum of evidence-based behavioral health and support services to adults, seniors, children and families on both an outpatient and inpatient basis. With the help of Levy funds, in August 2009, Navos opened its Burien Heights Residences. The facility has 15 units for low income clients, including three units reserved for veterans.

The agency offers a variety of other supportive services including dental care, employment training, counseling for depression and addiction recovery support. A team of providers works closely together to manage individual cases and make home visits with clients when needed. Navos also has programs focusing on healthy “mental health” development for infants 0- 3 years of age, beginning early to work with parents and single moms to develop relationships with their infants and manage the stresses of caring for a newborn.

Activity 2.8: Nicole Chu of Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI)

SJI is a non-profit agency based out of Seattle that focuses on eliminating barriers to obtaining good paying jobs with a salary of \$10-\$15 per hour, with a goal of advancing individuals to higher paying jobs at \$15-\$25 per hour to build financial stability. SJI discovered the rate at which clients retained employment was low and made a culture shift, incorporating a model with greater wrap around services to better support clients and help them retain jobs.

For instance, of 61 persons previously placed in jobs, only 45% had retained their positions beyond 3 months. Collaborations with agencies throughout King County have been key in extending the support services available through SJI. These collaborations along with the hiring of two vocational specialists have contributed to the success SJI is having with this new model. Pioneer, a local manufacturing company has found those referred through SJI are now remaining in their positions past 9 months.

Activity: 3.1 & 4.2: Anne Shields of Public Health – Seattle & King County

Anne provided a handout regarding the Maternal and Child Behavioral Health Pilot. The program leverages Levy funds to address maternal depression by integrating mental health and behavioral health services in community health clinics. The program has served 3,000 women that otherwise would not have been eligible for mental health services. A handout provided an overview of programmatic targets and outcomes achieved.

Activity 3.1 & 4.2: Faith Wimberly of HealthPoint

Faith provided an overview of the Mobile Medical Unit whose operations are supported by Levy funds. The mobile clinic allows people who would otherwise not seek treatment or come into a clinic, to connect with medical care. The mobile medical clinic consults with HealthPoint health providers as needed when working with patients. The mobile clinic has allowed providers to build relationships with those that who would not otherwise seek medical care or are hesitant to do so. Many of the board members have visited the mobile clinic in the past where they witnessed the medical care, support and trust building provided by staff. Of those served by the unit, a total 135 have been veterans.

Activity 3.1 & 4.2: Amy Aubin & Mayra Sanchez of Sea Mar Community Health Center

Sea Mar has clinic locations from Bellingham to Vancouver, Washington. In effect, Sea Mar is a “one-stop shop” for in-house medical services, including dental care, pharmaceutical needs, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, migrant worker and homeless services and maternal care, and bilingual services. One of the projects supported by Levy funds is a maternal depression pilot program aimed at serving pregnant women and coaching parenting skills to women who are parenting children 12 years of age or younger. Mothers accessing services at any entry point are screened for depression, and are referred for follow-up care, including the option of entering the pilot program.

One of the success stories shared by Mayra and Amy involved a mother who screened high (a score of 19) for postpartum depression and within 3 months scored far lower (a score of 3) after working with and having access to a behavioral therapist and support group. Many of the women participating in the support group have taken the initiative to expand the support group, to meet more often, setting goals for the group and arranging to practice or learn new parenting and life skills. Support groups have 20-30 participants and they have served 60 cases thus far.

Activity 3.1 & 4.2: Jessica Witkowski, NeighborCare Health

NeighborCare Health is the leading provider of primary medical and dental care to low-income and uninsured patients in Seattle. Each year 46,000 people are served across 17 medical, dental and school-based clinics. NeighborCare Health receives Levy funding to provide both integrated mental health services (Activity 3.1) and pilot maternal depression services (Activity 4.2).

Jessica shared a story of a client who had been diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder. Overtime, the disorder had taken hold of him and he was not able to keep his job or function day to day. A few months following treatment, including talk-therapy and visits with a psychiatrist, the client was able to return to work.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Petitions/Communications (public comment):

- Linda Peterson of DCHS reported the outcome of two proposals put forth to the Metropolitan King County Council’s Budget and Fiscal Management Committee for vote on Tuesday, July 21, 2009. One, a proposal put forth by Councilmember Julia Patterson, was to renew the Veterans and Human Services Levy early, instead of in 2011 when the current levy expires, to fund human service programs. The second proposal was put forth by Interim County Executive Kurt Triplett who had proposed a one-tenth of a percent increase in the sales tax whose revenue would be split with cities to pay for criminal-justice, health, and human service programs. Both proposals were voted down in committee.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.